



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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November 05, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

4-P November 5, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO
THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION
OF A GRANT TO THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY
FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
(FIRST DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority for improvements to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Certify that the Board, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed San Gabriel River Discovery Center Improvements Project and the Final Environmental Impact Report, the Findings, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted by the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority, as lead agency; determine that the documents adequately address the environmental impacts of the proposed project; find that the Board has complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to the process for a responsible agency and adopt by reference the Final Environmental Impact Report, the Findings, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for a grant to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority for the proposed San Gabriel River Discovery Center Improvements Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority, after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns its right to apply for Specified Excess Funds to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority and when applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a grant to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority (SGRDCA) for the proposed San Gabriel River Discovery Center Improvements Project (Project).

SGRDCA was established as a Joint Power Entity to oversee the planning and development of the proposed Project, which involves improvements to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center (Discovery Center). The purpose of the Discovery Center is to create an infrastructure to provide accessible and engaging watershed and environmental education to the public.

The proposed Project involves improvements to the Discovery Center, including the development of a wetlands and naturalized bioswale, outdoor classrooms, outdoor interpretive elements, nature trails, native plant landscaping, and related infrastructure.

The total estimated project cost is \$5,745,616. The recommended Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented by \$545,616 from State Grant Funds from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and \$2,200,000 from the Supplemental Environmental Program Grant Funds from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

MRCA, the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, will assign its right to apply for the \$3,000,000 to SGRDCA.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant, after MRCA assigns its right to apply to SGRDCA and when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, if applicable. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of

Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3) by enhancing health-promoting activities in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of \$3,000,000, is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. MRCA and SGRDCA both meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended Excess Fund grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide for governing the administration of RPSOD grants. The Procedural Guide will also appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. SGRDCA is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

SGRDCA, in its role as lead agency in matters pertaining to compliance with CEQA, by Resolution 2010-02 adopted by SGRDCA on January 20, 2010, found that the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) reflected the independent judgment of SGRDCA, and approved the Final EIR. SGRDCA has prepared Findings of Fact in compliance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 for every significant impact of the Project being approved, including an explanation of the rationale for each finding; and the Project will have a significant and unavoidable contribution to global climate change due to the increase in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions over existing conditions even with implementation of project design features and all feasible mitigation; and SGRDCA has prepared a Statement of Overriding Considerations in compliance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, which finds that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the Project outweigh its significant and unavoidable effects; and SGRDCA has prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program in compliance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15097 to ensure compliance during project implementation and operation with mitigation measures identified

in the EIR.

With respect to the Board's approval of the Project described herein, the County also acts as a responsible agency for the purposes of CEQA, and therefore, it is recommended that the Board independently consider and adopt the Final EIR, the Findings, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD. The proposed Project will promote healthy activities in public spaces in the First Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:tb

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors